



## **Senate Committee Services Staff Issue Area Document**

*(Committee Links for Committee Staff Issues and Staff)*

[Accountability & Reform](#)

[Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development](#)

[Commerce & Labor](#)

[Early Learning & K-12 Education](#)

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## **Accountability & Reform (786-7435)**

*Curt Gavigan, Counsel - 786-7437*

- Regulatory Reform
- Lean Management of State Government Programs and Agencies
- Audits of State Government Programs and Agencies

*Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7430*

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (786-7411)**

*Karen Epps, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7424*

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- Anaerobic Digesters
- Agricultural Land
- Agricultural Loan Programs
- Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Chemical Treatment
- Agricultural Products – Production, Sale, and Marketing
- Commodity Commissions
- Dairy nutrient management
- Food Safety
- Food Labeling and Processing
- Legal Issues
- Water Rights/Water quantity
- Rural Economic Development

*Bonnie Kim, Staff Counsel - 786-7316*

[Also staff of the [Natural Resources & Parks](#) Committee]

*Brittany Yunker Carlson, Committee Assistant - 786-7407*

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Commerce & Labor (786-7426)**

*Susan Jones, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7404*

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- Consumer Protection
- Industrial Insurance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Worker Retraining
- Lottery

*Richard Rodger, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7461*

- Construction Trades Licensing and Regulation
- Liquor
- Recreational Marijuana
- Gambling
- Horse Racing
- Worker Privacy and Personnel Practices
- Employment Standards

*Jarrett Sacks, Counsel - 786-7448*

- Apprenticeship
- Prevailing Wage
- Professional Licensing
- Labor Trafficking
- Collective Bargaining

[Brittany Yunker Carlson, Committee Assistant - 786-7407](#)

(Committee Contact)

## **Early Learning & K-12 Education (786-7420)**

[Susan Mielke, Sr. Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7422](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Basic Education
- High School Graduation Requirements, including Statewide Assessments
- Special Education
- Charter Schools
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education

[Ailey Kato, Staff Counsel - 786-7434](#)

- Early Learning
- Student Health
- Student and Educator Safety
- Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee
- Student Discipline

[Alia Kennedy, Staff Counsel - 786-7405](#)

- Collective bargaining for school employees
- Paraeducators
- Teacher preparation and certification
- Teacher and principal evaluations
- Professional Educators Standards Board

[Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

## **Energy, Environment & Telecommunications (786-7406)**

[Jan Odano, Staff Coordinator/Research Analyst - 786-7486](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Air Quality
- Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction
- Solid Waste Management
- Nuclear and Radioactive Waste
- Telecommunications
- Water Quality

[Kim Cushing, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7421](#)

- Energy Generation and Transmission
- Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Standards
- Committee issues as assigned

[Jeff Olsen, Staff Analyst - 786-7428](#)

[Also Staff Coordinator/Research Analyst of the [Trade & Economic Development](#) Committee]

- State Environmental Policy Act
- Product Stewardship
- Shoreline Management Act

[Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

(Committee Contact)

## **Financial Institutions & Insurance (786-7409)**

- Payday Lending
- Foreclosures
- Mortgage Brokers

- Mobile Home Parks
- Landlord-Tenant
- Loan Originators
- Uniform Commercial Code
- Banking-shared
- Banking-primary contact
- Credit Ratings and Scoring
- Credit Unions
- Insurance Claims and Fraud
- Public Depositaries
- Securities Regulation
- Construction Defects
- Home Owners' and Condo Associations
- Life insurance and Life Settlements
- Homeowners' Insurance, Rates and Forms
- Re-insurance
- Financial Solvency of Insurers
- Market Conduct of Insurers

[Shani Bauer, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7468](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

[Aldo Melchiori, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7439](#)

[Also staff of the [Law & Justice](#) Committee]

[Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Government Operations & Security (786-7447)**

[Karen Epps, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7424](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- Tribal Relations
- Local Government
- Land Use and Development
- Growth Management Act
- Government Incorporation
- Annexation
- Vesting
- Veterans Affairs
- Military Affairs
- Property Taxes
- Ethics and Conflict of Interest

[Sam Brown, Staff Counsel - 786-7470](#)

- Public Records
- Public Disclosure
- Open Public Meetings
- Elections
- Campaign Finance
- Initiatives and Referendums
- Signature Gathering
- Veterans Affairs
- Military Affairs
- Historic Preservation
- Archives

[Alex Fairfortune, Staff Counsel - 786-7416](#)

- Local Government
- Special Purpose Districts
- Open Public Meetings
- Fire Protection
- Emergency Management
- Information Technology at State Agencies
- Public Contracting Procedures
- Public Works
- Administrative Procedure Act
- Civil Service

[Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417](#)

(Committee Contact)

## **Health Care (786-7456)**

[Kathy Buchli, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7488](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Long-Term Care
- Developmental Disabilities
- Drugs and Drug Policy
- Medical marijuana
- Public Health

[Evan Klein, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Higher Education](#) Committee]

- Health Care Professions
- Facility Regulation
- Public Health

[Mich'l Needham, Sr. Research Analyst - 786-7442](#)

- ACA—Federal Health Care Reform
  - Medicaid Expansion
  - Exchange
- Health Care Financing/Insurance—Public and Private

[Brittany Yunker Carlson, Committee Assistant - 786-7407](#)

(Committee Contact)

## **Higher Education (786-7415)**

[Clint McCarthy, Staff Coordinator/Analyst - 786-7319](#)

(Lead Committee Contact)

- Public and Independent Baccalaureate Colleges and Universities
- Public Community and Technical Colleges
- Financial Aid
- Tuition
- Governance

[Evan Klein, Staff Counsel - 786-7483](#)

[Also staff of the [Health Care](#) Committee]

- Campus Safety
- For-Profit Colleges
- Workforce Training
- Private Career Schools
- Faculty
- Veterans Issues

[Sandy Jaime, Committee Assistant - 786-7417](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (786-7414)**

[Alison Mendiola, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7444](#)

- Housing (affordable housing & homelessness)
- Child Welfare/Child Protection
  - Family Assessment Response (FAR)
  - Extended foster care services
  - Legal representation in dependencies
  - Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Child Care Licensing
- Juvenile Justice
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
  - Workfirst
  - Working Connections Child Care
  - SNAP (Food Stamps)
- Disability Lifeline Program (formerly General Assistance)

[Kevin Black, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7747](#)

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
  - Competency to Stand Trial/Criminal Insanity
  - Involuntary Treatment Act Civil Commitments
  - Regional Support Networks
  - Crisis Diversion
- Offender Reentry Community Safety Program (fka Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program)
- Domestic Violence Issues
- Crime victims
- Sex Offenders: Civil commitment
- Truancy

[Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Law & Justice (786-7455)**

[Tim Ford, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7423](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- Tort Law
- General Criminal and Civil
- Guardianship and Probate Issues
- Business Law
- Collection Issues
- Eminent Domain
- Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles
- Body Worn Camera Task Force

[Melissa Burke-Cain, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7755](#)

- Human Trafficking
- Trusts
- General Civil and Court Related Subject Matter
- Court Administration Issues
- Domestic Violence
- General Criminal
- Laws Relating to Animal Cruelty

- Family Law
- Public Health-Related Court and Criminal Matters

[Lindsay Erickson, Staff Counsel - 786-7465](#)

- Corrections
- Sex Offenders
- DUI
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes
- General Criminal Issues
- Use of Deadly Force Task Force

[Aldo Melchiori, Staff Counsel - 786-7439](#)

- DUI
- Motor Vehicle Related Issues
- Firearms
- School-Related Criminal Issues
- New Crimes and Sentencing Changes
- General Criminal Issues
- Collection and Garnishment
- Uniform Laws

[Carly Johnson, Committee Assistant - 786-7441](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Natural Resources & Parks (786-7419)**

[Curt Gavigan, Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7437](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- Fish and Wildlife Governance
- Wildlife
- State Lands Management
- Recreation and State Parks

[Bonnie Kim, Staff Counsel - 786-7316](#)

[Also staff of the [Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development](#) Committee]

- Fisheries
- Forest Health and Fire
- Geology and Surface Mining
- Forestry & Timber

[Jasmin Adams, Committee Assistant - 786-7716](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## **Trade & Economic Development (786-7408)**

[Jeff Olsen, Staff Coordinator/Research Analyst - 786-7428](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

[Also staff of the [Energy, Environment & Telecommunications](#) Committee]

- Economic Development Incentives
- International Trade and Export Assistance
- Regional and Sector Based Development
- Regulatory Assistance
- Technical Assistance to Businesses
- Small Business Assistance
- Tourism

[Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## Transportation (786-7300)

### Kelly Simpson, Sr. Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7403

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

#### *Budget Assignments*

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Transportation Commission

#### *Policy Assignments*

- Utilities and Transportation Commission
- State and Regional Transportation Governance
- State and Regional Transportation Planning
- Transportation Element of Growth Management Act
- Special Purpose Districts

### David Ward, Fiscal Coordinator - 786-7341

#### *Budget Assignments*

- Treasurer-Bond Retirement and Interest
- Joint Transportation Committee/Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program/Office of Financial Management

#### *Policy Assignments*

- Revenue Forecasts
- Financial Plans/Fund Balances
- Bonds and Other Indebtedness

### Kelly Simpson, Sr. Staff Coordinator/Counsel - 786-7403

#### *Budget Assignments*

- Highway Construction Projects
- DOT-Toll Operations
- DOT-Highway Improvements
- DOT-Highway Maintenance
- DOT-Highway Preservation
- DOT-Traffic Operations
- DOT-Information Technology
- DOT-Management
- DOT-Program Management and Support
- Internal Service Activities

#### *Policy Assignments*

- Tolls
- Highways
- Environmental Issues

### Hayley Gamble, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7452

#### *Budget Assignments*

- Washington State Ferries
  - Operating
  - Capital
- DOT-Rail
  - Operating
  - Capital
- DOT-Facilities
  - Operating
  - Capital
- DOT-Aviation
- DOT-Planning, Data, and Research
- DOT-Public Transportation



- Local Programs/Resources
  - DOT–Local Programs (Z)
  - Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB)
  - Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
  - County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

*Policy Assignments*

- Washington State Ferries
- Rail
- Local Transit Agencies, including Sound Transit
- Board of Pilotage Commissioners

[Kim Johnson, Sr. Staff Counsel - 786-7472](#)

*Budget Assignments*

- Budget Bill Coordination
- DOT–Public/Private Partnerships
- State Parks and Recreation
- Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Department of Agriculture

*Policy Assignments*

- Traffic Safety/Rules of the Road
- Bicycles
- Motorcycles/Motor Scooters
- Transportation Security Issues (e.g., valid identification and legal presence)
- Initiative/Referendum Issues

[Kellee Keeagan, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7429](#)

*Budget Assignments*

- Department of Licensing
- WSP
- Traffic Safety Commission

*Policy Assignments*

- DOL
  - Drivers
  - Vehicles
- Revenue Forecasts
- Taxes/Fees

[Alison Riffer, Committee Assistant - 786-7430](#)

*(Committee Contact)*

## [Ways & Means \(786-7715\)](#)

[Bryon Moore, Sr. Staff Coordinator - 786-7726](#)

*(Lead Committee Contact)*

- House of Representatives
- Office of Financial Management
- Office of the Governor
- Senate

[Michael Bezanson, Operating Budget Coordinator - 786-7449](#)

- Operating Budget Issues

[Richard Ramsey, Capital Budget Coordinator - 786-7412](#)

- Bond Retirement and Interest
- K-12 Capital Issues
- Local Government Assistance
- Municipal Research Council

[Dean Carlson, Revenue Coordinator- 786-7305](#)

- Revenue Policy Issues
- Board of Tax Appeals
- Caseload Forecast Council
- Department of Revenue
- Economic and Revenue Forecast Council
- Liquor Control Board

[Michele Alishahi, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7433](#)

- Central Washington University
- Community and Technical Colleges
- Eastern Washington University
- The Evergreen State College
- Student Achievement Council
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Western Washington University
- Workforce Training and Education Board

[Amanda Cecil, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7460](#)

- Board for Volunteer Firefighters
- Collective Bargaining
- Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
- Department of Retirement Systems
- Employee Compensation
- Pensions
- Public Employment Relations Commission
- State Actuary
- State Investment Board

[Maria Hovde, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7474](#)

- Department of Early Learning
- DSHS—Child Support Services
- DSHS—Children and Family Services
- DSHS—Economic Services
- TANF Issues

[James Kettel, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7459](#)

- DSHS—Administration and Support Services
- DSHS—Developmental Disabilities
- DSHS—Information System Services
- DSHS—Long Term Care
- DSHS—Payments to Other Agencies
- DSHS—Vocational Rehabilitation
- Department of Services for the Blind
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Life Science Discovery Fund
- School for the Blind
- Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss

[Daniel Masterson, Fiscal Analyst 786-7454](#)

- Arts Commission
- Attorney General
- Board of Accountancy
- Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals
- Commission on African-American Affairs

- Commission on Asian-American Affairs
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- Consolidated Technology Services
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Employment Security
- Department of Enterprise Services
- Department of Financial Institutions
- Department of Labor and Industries
- Department of Licensing (non-transportation portion)
- Eastern Washington Historical Society
- Gambling Commission
- Horse Racing Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Military Department
- Minority and Women's Business Enterprises
- Office of Administrative Hearings
- Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Office of Chief Information Officer
- Office on Indian Affairs
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- State Lottery Commission
- State Treasurer
- Washington State Historical Society

[Jeff Mitchell, Revenue Counsel - 786-7438](#)

- Public Schools (K-12 Education)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Washington State Charter School Commission
- K-12 Local Levies

[Jed Herman, Fiscal Analyst - 786-7346](#)

- Columbia River Gorge Commission
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Environmental and Land Use Hearing Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Conservation Commission
- Utilities and Transportation Commission

[Julie Murray, Sr. Fiscal Counsel -786-7711](#)

- Courts
  - Commission on Judicial Conduct
  - Court of Appeals
  - Law Library
  - Office of the Administrator for the Courts
  - Office of Civil Legal Aid

- Office of Public Defense
- Supreme Court
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
- Joint Legislative Systems Committee
- LEAP Committee
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Public Disclosure Commission
- Special Appropriations to the Governor
- Statute Law Committee
- Sundry Claims

*Vacant Position*

- Revenue Policy Issues

*Sandy Stith, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7710*

- Employee Compensation/Health Benefits
- Health Benefits Exchange
- Health Care Authority (including administration)
- Insurance Commissioner
- Low Income Health Care (Medicaid)
- PEBB Benefits

*Travis Sugarman, Sr. Fiscal Analyst - 786-7446*

- Criminal Justice Training Commission
- Department of Corrections
- DSHS—Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- DSHS—Juvenile Rehabilitation
- DSHS—Mental Health
- DSHS—Special Commitment Center
- Forensics Investigation Council
- Justice Assistance Grant (formerly Byrne Grant)
- State Patrol (non-transportation portion)

*Jasmin Adams, Committee Assistant - 786-7716*

*(Committee Contact)*